

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Yajima.

Claims 2 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims over the art, applicants amended claim 1 by introducing into it the features of claim 2.

Claims 3, 4 and 6 have been retained in their original form with their direct or indirect dependency on claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended by introducing into it the features of claim 1, thus making it independent.

The Examiner stated that claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 contained features which are disclosed in the U.S. patent to Yajima.

This reference shows the automobile antenna 801, comprising the base member 803 mounting the electrical parts thereon, the cover 804 and the pad member 805 made of an elastic material that contacts internally the cover 804, 804a and covers the bottom of the peripheral portion 803, 803a. It is believed to be clear that this reference discloses the automobile antenna mounted on an outside sheet panel of an automobile and including a base member that supports electrical parts for reception or transmission, and a cover member that receives the electrical parts for reception or transmission and a pad member made of an elastic material. However, this reference does not disclose the new features of the present invention which are now introduced into claim 1 from claim 2, in particular it does not have such a structure where the pad member 2 covers the bottom part and the outside periphery of the base member 1 and is fitted inside the cover member 3. The features of the original claim 2 which are now introduced in claim 1 are not provided in the patent to Yajima.

The patent to Yajima neither discloses nor suggests the new features which are now defined in amended claim 1 with respect to the tapered surface 14, the flange 15 outwardly expanding from the lower end of the tapered surface, the fitting part 22 for the cover 3, the fixing annular rib 25 contacting the

tapered surface 14, and the tapered diverging embrace cavity 5 sectioned by the fixing annular rib.

When the automobile antenna is designed in accordance with the present invention, the base member 1 and the pad member 2 can be integrated easily and securely, and at the same time, since the fixing annular rib 25 closely contacts with the tapered surface 14 of the base member 1, the water proof performance is secured.

In other words, the pad member 2 is incorporated into the base member 1 to be an assembly. In the process, since the flange 15 on the outer periphery is fitted internally while expanding the fixing annular rib (25) of the pad member (2), of the base member 1 and the annular rib 25 of the pad member 2, the base member 1 closely contacts at its under surface with the surface of the face plate portion 20 of the pad member 2. At the same time, the fixing annular rib 25 closely contacts with the tapered surface 14, and the flange 16 and the tapered surface 14 on the outer periphery are interposingly fixed while being embraced by the diverging embrace cavity 5 defined by the fitting inner member, the lower face of the inner flange and the inside face of the fixing annular rib. Therefore, the assembling operation is simple, and since the base member 1 and the pad member 2 are not separated thereafter, transportation in the setting-up line is easy.

When attaching the cover member 3, the outer surface of the fitting portion 22 is somewhat deformed and strongly presses the cover 3 at its outer peripheral inner face. Therefore, water or dusts from an outside of the cover member 3 are securely avoided from entering. Such highly advantageous results can not be obtained from this reference and also other references cited by the Examiner.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended clearly and patentably distinguishes from the prior art and should be allowed.

Claim 5 has been amended as well by making it independent, and it is therefore defines the features which are not disclosed in the prior art as well. Claim 5 should also be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on claim 1, they share its allowable features and therefore they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application with all the claims currently on file is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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